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# Weinberger Presents Study on the Soviet Buildup

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 29 — Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger opened a campaign today to persuade Americans and their allies that there was "nothing hypothetical" about the expansion of Soviet military power or the threat it posed to the West.

"We're witnessing the continuing growth of the Soviet military at a pace that shows no signs of slackening in the future," Mr. Weinberger said at a Pentagon news conference as the Defense Department made public an elaborate report on "Soviet Military Power."

While the 99-page booklet, replete with color pictures, maps and charts, duplicates other surveys of Soviet military strength, it contains nuggets of new information. It asserts, for instance, that the Soviet Union is well ahead of the United States in the military uses of space and in laser weapons.

## Telecast to NATO Headquarters

Underscoring Mr. Weinberger's desire to reach an audience abroad, the news conference was telecast by the International Communications Agency, the Government's information arm.

About 50 reporters accredited to the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Brussels were reported to have watched the proceedings and attended a briefing by a Pentagon official together with 30 other Western European reporters.

Copies of the booklet were handed to officials of other governments before it was released here. The Deputy Secretary of Defense, Frank C. Carlucci, who is on a trip to Asia, gave copies to Japanese leaders in Tokyo. The British Defense Minister, John Nott, briefed British journalists in London on the American report, Pentagon officials said.

Pentagon officials said the first edition of the booklet ran to 36,000 copies, printed at a cost of \$40,000 by a commercial concern outside Washington. Of the total, 10,000 were sent to the Government Printing Office for sale at \$6.25 each.

Looking to a wide readership, one Pentagon officer said, "We hope to have one on every coffee table in America."

Another 10,000 copies have been turned over to the Army, Navy, and Air Force for distribution. Still other copies will be distributed to members of Congress, to the press, and within the Defense Department.

Abroad, 200 copies have been given to allied governments in Western Europe and Japan. Translations into German, French, Spanish, Italian, and Japanese have begun, officials said.

Mr. Weinberger plans to carry the message abroad himself next month, when he plans to visit Sweden, France and Britain, and to meet with allied defense ministers in Scotland.

He denied today that the booklet had been published to justify a forthcoming Administration's announcement of a new arms program, including the mobile MX missile and a manned bomber.

## Link to Budget Debate Denied

Mr. Weinberger said publication of the booklet at this time was not connected with the debate over the military budget.

"This book was prepared long before Mr. Stockman had any question about any of our budget and long before Wall Street had any question about our economic policy," Mr. Weinberger said, referring to David A. Stockman, director of the Office of Management and Budget, who has called for military budget cuts.

To demonstrate the resources being devoted to the Soviet military sector, Mr. Weinberger displayed a blown-up chart, taken from the booklet, showing the outline of a huge freight-car and tank plant superimposed on a map of Washington. The plant area would extend from the Lincoln Memorial to Capitol Hill, about two miles.

According to the Pentagon booklet, the plant, at Nizhni Tagil in the Urals, made 2,500 T-72 tanks, the largest in the Soviet arsenal, last year. According to generally available Soviet publications, which mention only the civilian aspect of the plant, it also assembles more than a fourth of the Soviet Union's freight cars. Total production in 1980 was 63,000.

Among the fresh information in the booklet, officials said, is a map giving the Pentagon's assessment of the deployment and state of readiness of the Soviet Union's 180 combat divisions. All 30 divisions in Eastern Europe are rated combat-ready while only six or seven of the more than 45 divisions facing China are shown as combat-ready.

There are brief descriptions of Soviet efforts in space and with laser weapons. The Soviet Union is developing a huge rocket, the report says, that "is estimated to have six to seven times the launch-weight capability" of the United States space shuttle.

## Advances in Laser Weapons Seen

On laser weapons, the report says that the Russians' program "is three to five times the United States level of effort."

"Their development of moderate power weapons capable of short-range ground-based applications, such as tactical air defense and antipersonnel weapons, may well be far enough along for such systems to be fielded by the mid-1980's," the report says.

A map in the report, captioned "Soviet Global Power Projection," provides information on Soviet, Cuban and East German military and civilian advisers abroad that the Pentagon previously refused to make public.

It shows 50 Soviet and 3,200 Cuban advisers in Nicaragua, for instance, and 2,400 Soviet, 5,900 Cuban and 550 East German advisers in Ethiopia. In the Middle East, 2,300 Soviet and 3,000 Cuban advisers are said to be stationed in Libya; 8,000 Russians, 2,200 Cubans and 160 East Germans in Iraq; and 4,000 Russians, five Cubans and 210 East Germans in Syria.

"In 1980," the report said, "approximately 20,000 Soviet military personnel were stationed in 28 countries where they play a central role in organizing, training and penetrating client armed forces."